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" (b) Repairs to the sluices of the Kondangi tank have already been carried out. Deepening the tank, is reported to be unnecessary as the difficulties experienced are only due to inadequate supply and not due to insufficient storage capacity. Proposals for diverting the course of the Kondangi tank supply channel have been formulated and are under examination by the Chief Engineer in consultation with the Collector."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Government consider the question of digging the canal in question under Local Development programme? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The Collector has been asked to report on the Grow More Food aspects of the diversion proposals and his report is awaited."

Purchase of portraits of national leaders.

* 9 Q.—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the local bodies desirous of putting up statues and portraits of national leaders are required to purchase the same from prescribed agencies, and if so, who they are and how they have been selected and under what conditions;

(b) who prepared the model of Mahatma Gandhi (bust or statute) and why it is supplied to local bodies through foreign manufacturers; and

(c) what is the cost prescribed for supply of Mahatma Gandhi bust or statue to local bodies and in what proportion the cost is credited to Government and manufacturers?

The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" (a) Local bodies have freedom to purchase portraits of national leaders from whatever agency they choose. Government have never compelled any local body to buy them from any particular artist, though they have commended the work of certain artists.

" (b) The original model of the bust of Mahatma Gandhi was prepared by Sri D. P. Roy Chowdhury, Principal, School of Arts and Crafts, Madras, and from that model, castings in bronze were made in Italy. The technique of bronze casting as practised in India is hardly reliable for a faithful representation of the original work, particularly where touches are emphasized. Bronze statutary casting is best made in Italy. In fact all the really important statues in this country have been cast in Italy. The original bust produced by Sri D. P. Roy Chowdhury was therefore sent to Italy for casting.

" (c) The cost prescribed for the supply of a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi to local bodies, etc., is about Rs. 2,248.

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No portion of the cost of the bust has been credited to Government. The proportion in which the cost is credited to (1) Sri D. P. Roy Chowdhury and (2) the manufacturers and suppliers is as shown below :—

	RS.	A.	P.
(1) Sri Roy Chowdhury	823	3	7
(2) Manufacturers and suppliers ...	1,423	13	5
	2,247	1	0 "

11-50 a.m. SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*b*), are the Government aware that there is not much of likeness of the great personage in the statutes supplied to the various local bodies? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" There is no such information, Sir. The Government are satisfied that this bronze statue is better than any other."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Has not any representation been made in this regard by the Chairmen of the Municipal Councils, especially by the Chairman of the Chingleput Municipal Council when a statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by the Hon. Minister for Agriculture? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" I think no such representation was made."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether the Government would take steps to see that Indian manufacturers are encouraged to do this work by grant of State subsidies, if need be, instead of unblushingly acknowledging on the floor of this House that bronze casting done in Italy only is good? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The hon. Member who put this supplementary question indicated dissatisfaction with the resemblance. I do not think that it is a question of manufacture in India or Italy. The original bust is responsible for the resemblance either being good or bad."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Government be pleased to encourage sculptors and artists in this country by entrusting such work to them? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" When the original does not give satisfaction to hon. Members or others, inexpert casting will make the mistake double-fold or triple-fold."

SRI S. SRINIVASA RAO :—" May I know whether the bust is in Italy or in Madras? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" It is in Madras."

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SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" With reference to clause (*a*), may I know who are the approved national leaders and whether the list includes the names of any living persons? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Is there any proposal to install the portraits of national leaders in the Art Gallery in this State? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" A separate question may be put."

Appointment of Special Magistrates for trial of prohibition cases.

* 10 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to appoint Special Magistrates for trial of prohibition cases in this State?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" There is no such general proposal, but in the past Government have appointed some Magistrates exclusively for the trial of prohibition cases in a few districts to reduce the pendency of such cases."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" As the trial of prohibition cases now being conducted by the ordinary Magistrates along with the other cases has proved to be a farce because of the fact that prohibition cases are taken only in late hours when the witnesses are not generally expected to wait, a day long, may I request the Hon. Minister to reconsider the question of appointing Special Magistrates or to instruct the Magistrates to take up prohibition cases prior to other cases? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The suggestion will be considered."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" Will the Hon. the Minister for Law take care to see that the Magistrates who try prohibition cases do themselves believe in prohibition and that the Government do not appoint persons who do not believe in prohibition or who are at least indifferent about it? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" We cannot interfere with the judicial activities of Magistrates, much less can we interfere with their private activities."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" Deciding prohibition cases is not a private activity. It is a public duty."

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Will this policy be applied to the trial of the other cases also? Supposing there is a zamindar-tenant case, should the trying Magistrate be one who believes in that particular legislation? "